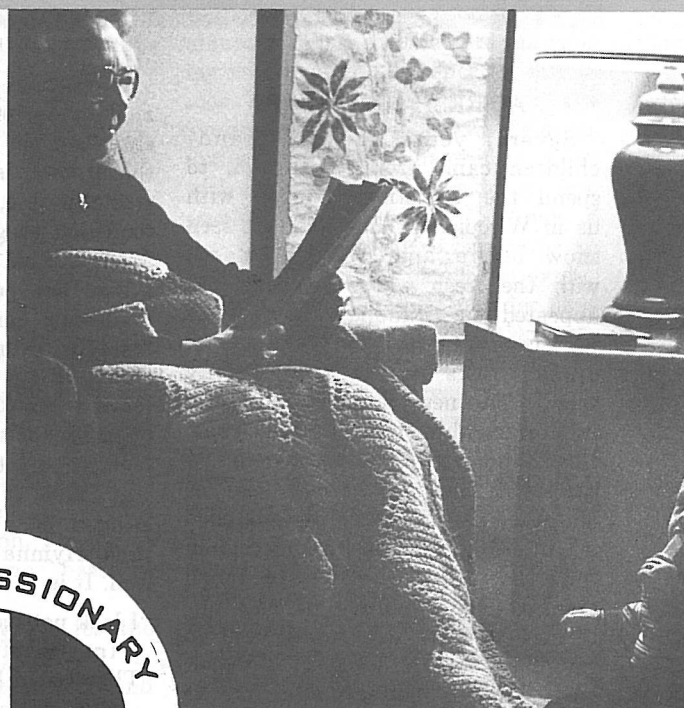


January 9, 1979

The Lutheran Ambassador



MEDITATION MOMENTS

PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

A FRESH NEW YEAR

Several years ago my grandchildren came from California, to spend the Christmas holiday with us in Wisconsin. They had not seen snow before and were fascinated with the fresh white covering that appeared on Grandpa's lawn. They just couldn't wait to get out and make tracks in the new, downy snow. The new unblemished snow is comparable to the new year, fresh and clean, unblemished by the sin of man. As the new year lies ahead of us, how will we approach it? It didn't take my grandchildren long to have the whole lawn tracked. The beauty of the unblemished snow was ruined and in its place was a scene of disaster, with aimless helter-skelter tracks everywhere. Is this the way we will approach this new year, without plan or goal, simply rushing to and fro, using all 365 days without purpose? At the end of 1979, all we'd have to look upon is a maze of failures and mistakes. This would be a tragedy, when life offers so much, as we start into a new year.

A verse of Scripture comes to mind, Luke 9:62: "Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Many of us are personally aware of what this passage means, having ploughed many an acre. With the

modern equipment it is a bit different than in the old "horse days"; the tractor is easier to keep in a straight line, while horses had a tendency to go where they pleased. Many a time I stood on the plough, eyeing the post at the end of the field, not daring to look away, for fear the course would drift to the right or to the left. This would leave a crooked furrow, an example of laxity for all to see. Yes, it is important to set our eye on the mark, and follow it all the way. I am reminded of a hymn in the Augustana Hymnal that tells the story well. It is "I Look Not Back":

"I look not back; God knows the
fruitless efforts,
The wasted hours, the sinning,
the regrets.
I leave them all with Him who
blots the record,
And graciously forgives, and then
forgets.
I look not forward; God sees all
the future,
The road that, short or long, will
lead me home,
And He will face with me its every
trial,
And bear for me the burdens that
may come.
I look not round me; then would
fears assail me,
So wild the tumult of earth's
restless seas,

So dark the world, so filled with
woe and evil,
So vain the hope of comfort and of
ease.

I look not inward; that would
make me wretched;
For I have naught on which to
stay my trust.
Nothing I see save failures and
shortcomings,
And weak endeavors, crumbling
into dust.

But I look up—into the face of
Jesus,
For there my heart can rest, my
fears are stilled;
And there is joy, and love, and
light for darkness,
And perfect peace, and every
hope fulfilled."

The mark on which we should set our eyes is pointed out in Philippians 3:14: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Jesus is the one on whom we should set our sights. As we strike out into 1979, allowing Jesus to be the guidepost in our lives, we will have an imperishable mark to aim at. It is foolish to set our sights on something uncertain. This could be a misleading mark. As we enter the fresh new year, let us put our eyes on Jesus and follow Him all the way.

—Philip Featherstone

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn. 56738, is the editor and all communications concerning content of the magazine should be addressed to him. Subscription price is \$4.00 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to **The Lutheran Ambassador**, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 17, Number 1

Godly Women Abound in the Lord's Work

by Mrs. Eugene Enderlein

Welcome to the WMF "featured" issue of our *Lutheran Ambassador*. It is a joyful privilege to introduce the work of the Women's Missionary Federation to our readers.

The Women's Missionary Federation, or in short, WMF, is not just another church "organization." All the women of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations are WMF members, though some are more active participants than others. We ladies face a world in great need of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and we want to *do* some very definite things to meet that need. As a group we can accomplish much more for Christ's kingdom than as individuals. Therefore, we as ladies want to respond as a group to our Lord's Great Commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature," and dedicate our time and talents to His Kingdom.

When our Savior walked this earth He often was helped by godly women. In the early New Testament church women played a significant role as lovers of the Gospel, doers of good deeds, homemakers and hostesses to Christian fellowship. In the modern church age we women can do much for our Savior. Our first priority should be that of Mary, sister to Lazarus. Mary chose the good part, our Lord Jesus said, when she laid other duties aside to sit at Jesus' feet and hear His Word. We modern women are distracted by a myriad of cares, obligations and responsibilities because of the hurried pace of our complex age. Therefore, we must *choose* to fellowship with our precious Savior through His Word and prayer. As we yield our lives to His Holy Spirit's control, the beauty of Jesus will flow out of us to others. He will show us ways in which we can be useful in the building of His Kingdom.

Women should seek to be Christ-filled "blooms" in the "garden where they are planted." Has God

given you a family? Then make it your priority to be the maker of a beautiful home, not in the physical sense of the word, although a woman enjoys adding touches of loveliness and neatness in her home, but emotionally and spiritually. Give of yourself to husband and children. Be a listener. Be an example of Christian virtues. Be your husband's encourager! Be a spiritual guide to your children. Be a happy, radiant, loving person within your home. Read to your children; laugh with your family; walk in the light of Christ, so that His beautiful life will be flowing forth from you.

Has God placed you in a job situation? Be prayerful for your fel-

low workers. Strive for Christlike virtues, so that they will see the light of Christ in you.

Within your local church, look for ways to use your spiritual gifts. Can you sing? Will you teach? Will you serve graciously? Can you minister to the sick and shut-in? Be prayerful for your pastor, his family and your officers. Be a trustworthy friend and co-worker!

Ladies, I urge you to become actively involved in your local WMF. I firmly believe that our WMF is accomplishing a good work in Christ's name. Enjoy the monthly meetings of Bible study, prayer, pertinent business and fellowship. Go to the fall and spring rallies and plan to join others for the winter Bible Conference and the annual AFLC Conference. At Annual Conference we have a WMF day just before the Conference actually begins. There we sponsor a breakfast and sharing time for women, conduct the Thursday evening Mission Festival Service, and enjoy countless hours of fellowship.

Our 1978-79 budget stands at \$44,000 and we challenge our ladies to sacrifice to send missionaries, build new congregations, provide mission scholarships, and help pay for our AFLC properties.

"Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58).



Mrs. Eugene Enderlein

How we began . . .

On October 27, 1962, a reorganizational meeting of the Lutheran Free Church—not Merged was held at Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

The ladies in attendance were not strangers to the work that women could do in a church group, but it was with much fear and trembling that approximately 30 women met in the basement of the church to organize the

by Mrs. Herbert Presteng, Grafton, ND

work of the Women's Missionary Federation. The following women were elected to get the work started:

Mrs. O. K. Ose, Thief River Falls, Minn.—President

Mrs. Herbert Presteng, Grafton, N. Dak.—Vice President

Mrs. Tarkel Ose, Thief River Falls, Minn.—Secretary

(Continued on page 8)

Great public attention has recently been directed to the medical issue of life: what constitutes basic evidence of "aliveness" in a human being. Oftentimes professionals witness electrical activity occurring in the brain of a patient with no voluntary heartbeat or breathing. This is a very serious condition and requires much medical attention and care.

Let us relate this condition to our local WMF groups. Is it not possible that your WMF group manifests a degree of activity with no real spiritual pulse or beneficial respiration? Perhaps this serious condition deserves some honest examination, truthful diagnosis and restorative therapy. We all desire a healthy, lively WMF!

Begin the examination with an honest evaluation of your meetings and your activities. Are you drawing every potential woman into your fellowship? Are your meetings Christ-centered and God-glorifying? Is your output truly beneficial? Is your activity specifically related to your purpose?

After arriving at a diagnosis, perhaps the following therapy would be helpful. Begin with earnest, fervent, diligent prayer for spiritual aliveness in the group. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16b). "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Unless our efforts are preceded and accompanied by powerful

WANTED:

prayer, they will all be futile and fruitless. Others will be attracted to a dynamic, concerned, genuine group of women, not to an entertaining program or catchy method.

Be assured of your purposes as stated in our handbook, chiefly, "To awaken and deepen interest in and love for the kingdom of God at home and abroad . . . sharing in the great missionary enterprise." A secondary purpose is, practically speaking, the womanly role of serving. I like to think of it as being the hospitable homemaker of the local church. It is the natural responsibility of the women to provide refreshments, beautify the house of God and cheerfully provide any service in the line of hospitality. This is an important part of the mission enterprise at home. Continually keep in mind that, as women, we are but an arm of the AFLC—a supportive endeavor.

Many of our local groups are doing a fine job encouraging missions; we can learn from each other. We all need basic instruction and reinstruction on our missionaries, mission fields and the eight projects of the WMF. Never assume this knowledge, we expect too much of newcomers and young women if we think they should just "catch

on." One WMF group provided a Sunday evening service, informing the whole congregation of the actual goals and work of the WMF. Consider beginning a missions scrapbook with pictures of our missionaries, their biographies, whereabouts of their children, maps of the areas they serve, and articles they have written. As our fields continue to broaden and multiply, our missions outlook will become joyfully more complex. This scrapbook could be greatly beneficial to a novice in the WMF, as well as informative to our children growing into this work. Artful, expressive posters representing the WMF projects are invaluable. Use

"Ask your pastor to help you in enlisting the support of the men."

them at each meeting to explain the purpose of the project of the month, review them often, and prayerfully consider your gift since the expenses vary and the needs are not always constant. Those who are already familiar with the projects should not find this repetition tedious if they truly believe the project is worthwhile.

MY MISSIONARY FOR A DAY

by Miss Judith Wold, Executive Secretary of the WMF

I Believe in Missions:

Because the greatest mission ever known was when God sent His only begotten Son into the world to save it.

Because the world will never be brought to Christ until men bring Christ to the world.

Because Jesus Himself taught us that missions was the only way to make disciples.

Because I am a disobedient lover of Jesus if I do not obey His command when He said . . . "Go."

Because if salvation means everything to me, I cannot be happy unless I share it with others.

Because a Christian who does not believe in missions always gets narrow and loses his world vision.

Because the missionary is the greatest hope of the world in its present historical crises.

(Charles L. Sheldon)

The women of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations wanted to become actively involved in the work of missions. Where was there an avenue of service? In the Prayer Calendar listed with other AFLC interests is *My Missionary For a Day*. As soon as a foreign mission program was adopted,

A WMF ... ALIVE!

by Mrs. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis.

Ask your pastor to help you in enlisting the support of the men. Many a young woman in considering the plans, preparations and sacrifices she must make to attend WMF finds the task overwhelming and decides it is easier to stay home. However, if she had the encouragement and practical help of her husband, she might learn to look forward to a time apart with other women. The ministry of women to women is unusually edifying and encouraging. The husbands will benefit meeting to discuss the business agenda, simplify it, prepare suggestions and alternatives, and then pray specifically for the meeting and the women. It is the responsibility of the board to take the leadership in inviting and including new women. Let each of you focus on one new woman to invite, and give your efforts time before considering another. It may take several months of persistent, patient invita-

tion before the woman recognizes the sincerity of your interest. Then take this newcomer under your wing, a spiritual foster parent, as such, assuming chief responsibility for her attendance, understanding of the work, interest and growth. Set the example in this venture and others will soon follow. If we each participated this way the responsibility would not be heavy, and think of the solid growth that would be achieved!

Even small churches have benefited by dividing their women into work groups which can handle various opportunities for hospitality by turns. This approach evens the load so that a few faithful ones are not continually burdened, nor tempted to grow weary. It is also a convenient way to include new women who begin helping in a simple, non-threatening way, and thereby become familiar with a few faces at a time, not overwhelmed by a

large group. Almost every woman is willing and happy to serve with her hands if she feels qualified. It takes effort to phone and ask a newcomer to provide a cake when you could easily bake one yourself, but the effort will be worthwhile for the future of that woman as well as the whole WMF group.

Be careful to stick to the items of business. Avoid discussing details that can be handled by a small work group at another time. It is not necessary for the whole group to decide between pie and cake, and what color frosting, for the next evening service! Entrusting small decisions to a few and rotating that responsibility encourages participation and self-confidence, prepares for bigger decisions next time, brings out fresh ideas, and squelches any possibility of argumentative discussion.

"Be willing to be flexible, to try new ideas. Be eager to implement variety."

Consider this as the beginning of restorative therapy. More constructive and exciting ideas will come about as you begin to see results. Once your spiritual pulses are beating, and your purposeful respirations are regular, your activity will be beneficial and inviting. Your WMF is alive and healthy—just what you wanted!

and couples were available for mission work in Brazil, the women of the WMF became very much involved. To many of the Lutheran women, this was not a new adventure. Women have at all times been vitally interested in reaching around to World Missions. How is this interest put into action?

Local offerings for *My Missionary For a Day* are received in the months of March and October. Women are encouraged to fill out a printed form which includes the name of the missionary or missionaries with whom they desire to be a prayer-partner, and to choose the date when the two parties covenant to remember each other in prayer. It is suggested that the donor's birthday be the selected day. These

forms, when mailed to the treasurer, are sent to the designated missionary.

Each missionary is salaried by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. What part is shared by the women? Through the offerings to *My Missionary For a Day*, the women assist in meeting this salary need. A definite amount each year is designated in the WMF budget. The women of the AFLC have to be congratulated in that they have met this budget need every year.

As we give toward *My Missionary For a Day*, we pray for and encourage Mrs. John Abel, Mrs. George Knapp and Mrs. Connely Dyrud in Brazil. Because the work in Nogales did at one time reach into Mexico, we support

Mrs. Lawrence Dynneson.

We encourage the ladies of the WMF to observe the progress and success of two young couples as they endeavor to gain admission to Brazil, Mr. and Mrs. David Abel and Tamara, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kvanvig and Bethany. Pray for them. Encourage them! If they are able to obtain the necessary papers to enter Brazil, they will be added to *My Missionary For a Day*. We will then support six missionary wives. How will you respond?

The women of the AFLC are encouraged to mail birthday and other greeting cards to the missionaries. How good to have a letter from the homeland.

A Woman's Highest Calling

by Mrs. Terry Martell, Lake Stevens, Wash.

Once upon a time there lived a woman, and for all intents and purposes we'll call her "the *young* woman who lived in a shoe." She had only two children, but she still didn't know what to do! She was a comparatively new Christian. She had a patient and caring (not to mention handsome) husband who loved her and their children very much. She always fancied being somebody important one day. Her fondest dream was that of being a nurse. Having been married at a young age she passed by the opportunity for much college education. When the children came along her dream had to be postponed again. She lamented, "Oh, to be somebody, to have a purpose in this world!" She began to pray (really hoping the Lord would open the doors for a nursing career), "Lord, show me what You would have me do. Give me clear direction." God did answer her plea. (Thank You, Lord, that I am a "somebody" to you. You have a purpose for me. Thank You that You are always ready and wanting to show me Your way.)

The story continues on to this day. She isn't a nurse, but she is a woman experiencing a challenging and rewarding career as a wife and now mother of three children.

Perhaps you've guessed that you haven't been reading a fairy tale at all. I am that woman. That day when I

"Perhaps you've guessed that you haven't been reading a fairy tale at all."

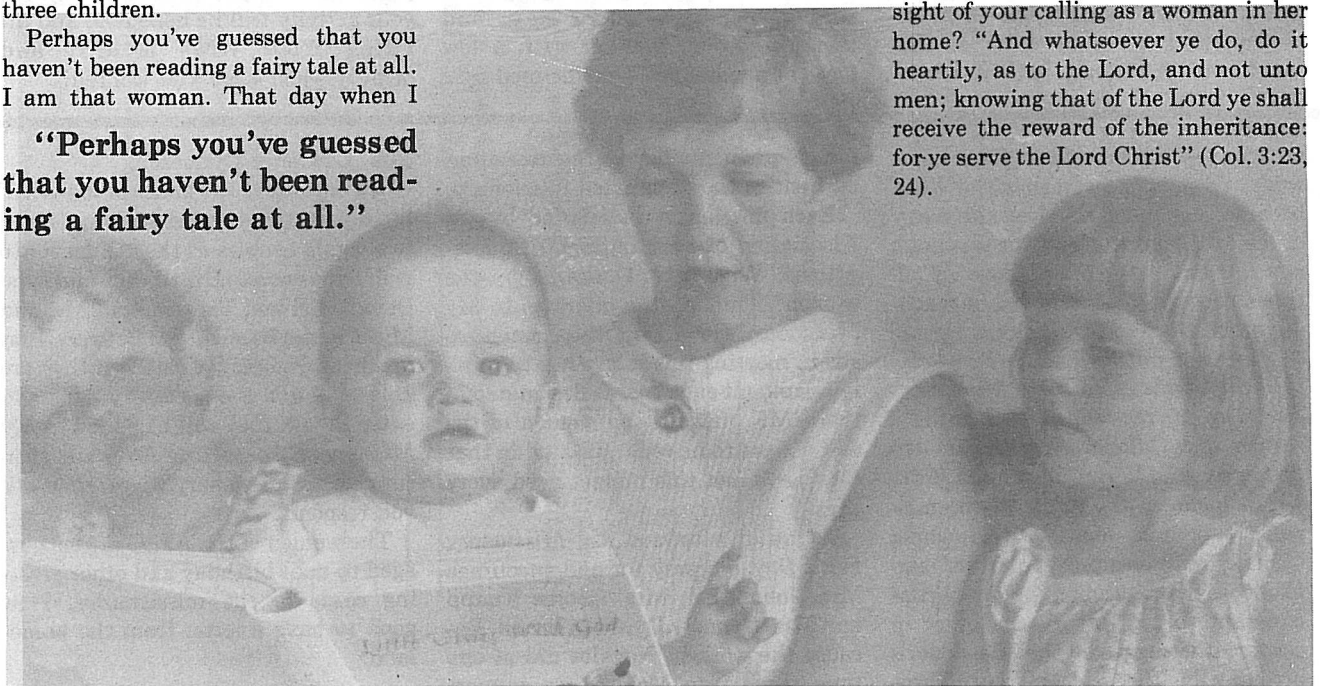
prayed, "Lord, show me what You would have me to do," was the beginning of a satisfying and contented life as a woman in my home. A month went by and my husband Terry and I discovered that God was going to bless us with our third child. This was not the answer I really hoped for. It was later that I realized that God was allowing this only for my good and my family's good. It encouraged me to read Isaiah 55:8-9: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." It's so comforting and gives me such peace to know that He has the plan and He sees the whole picture of my life. I only see just a very small part of it. ("O, Lord, 'Turn away my eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken Thou me in Thy way' " Psalm 119:37.)

Along with the challenges and the rewards of being a Christian homemaker come the struggles and the failures. Before I could begin to share with you, I needed to confess my sins and ask the Lord's forgiveness for becoming lax in my responsibilities. Oftentimes the "good things" that take up my

time are not the important things God wants me to be doing. What's happened? I've lost sight of God's calling for me. I've become satisfied with serving my family the leftovers (maybe even at times the scraps!) of my life instead of the full-course, candlelight supper. I'm sure that you as homemakers will agree that our daily tasks aren't always the most exciting or glamorous. Ephesians 5:20 says, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." God honors that thankful heart and blesses it with a desire and a creativity to further please Him.

"... our daily tasks aren't always the most exciting or glamorous."

We will want to *make* time to fix our husband's favorite supper, to put our projects aside and sit down and listen (really listen) to him when he shares the events of the day. We will want to spend time talking with the children rather than at them, to do something with them that *they* especially like to do. We may even want to do the things we've put off for so long. Have you lost sight of your calling as a woman in her home? "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (Col. 3:23, 24).

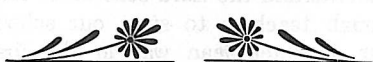


Seminettes and the WMF

by Mrs. Amos Dyrud
Faculty Advisor for the Seminettes

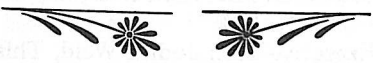
A question once put to me through a Bible course on Christian womanhood was, "Does it thrill you to know that you are engaged in God's highest calling for women?" It is especially difficult in our society today for a woman to see the importance of her position in the home, much less to be thrilled with it. We are constantly being bombarded by the women's liberation movement, coupled with all the campaigning for equal opportunities, our country's economic situation, coupled with all the "golden opportunities" for financial advancements, and last, but perhaps most importantly, our own selfishness.

On the other hand, we women today, as in no other time in history, have the opportunity to learn and to become deepened in God's role for us through Bible studies, Christian books and radio, seminars, workshops, retreats, etc. How important it is to be aware of the influences of the world. Through God's Word we can discover the special place of importance He has given us and be an influence for Christ in this world. And, yes, to be thrilled to be Christian women in our homes!



Charm
is deceitful,
beauty
is vain,
But a woman
who fears
the Lord,
She shall
be praised

Provs. 31:30



SEMINETTES is the name given to an organization "near and dear" to the AFLC Seminary in Minneapolis. It is made up of the wives and fiancées of the seminary students and the faculty. Once a month they meet in their homes and work toward the eight goals and purposes set up by their guidelines:

1. To grow and mature in our Christian life.
2. To become united as a group in Christian fellowship.
3. To learn to be good helpmates to our husband.
4. To grow in our understanding of Christian family living.
5. To grow in our understanding of the principles and practices of the AFLC.
6. To furnish information regarding the Women's Missionary Federation and Parish Education work of the AFLC.
7. To develop guidelines regarding the role of a pastor's wife in initiating and/or leading women's prayer fellowships and Bible studies.
8. To become acquainted and form mutual friendships among the Seminary families.

Proverbs 3:5-6 is the Scripture that heads their Guidelines: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledg Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Most of the women give this monthly meeting high priority and rarely miss a meeting. They find that good fellowship, binding friendships, inspiration and Christian growth are real blessings to them during the three years of Seminary. The faculty wives who continue on year after year find that these are helpful to them, too, because all are learners all through life.

The Women's Missionary Federation has been generous in giving financial help wherever they see a worthy opportunity. They pay the subscription fees for *The Lutheran Ambassador* for each seminarian, which is greatly appreciated by them, and it assures our church body that all of them have access to the material on these printed pages.

Bill Gothard's institutes in "Basic Youth Conflicts," which for several years have been held annually in the Twin Cities and are of such value and blessing to many, would undoubtedly be "out of reach" financially for many seminary couples were it not for the WMF which pays the tuition for each couple which has not already attended. As many of you know, once the fee has been paid and one has attended the institute, one can return as often as one wishes without again paying, because alumni go free. Thus they can gain benefit for many years.

Last year a ten-session tape series was presented to the Seminettes called "The Philosophy of Christian Womanhood." The initial cost of the tapes and the cost of the notebook for each seminary student's wife was paid by the WMF. Many have expressed great appreciation for the helps given in this course. In our day when, in both bold and subtle ways, the role of women and the home is undermined and values are so distorted, it is necessary to put extra effort into presenting the Biblical aspects of this subject to our young women, lest they, too, are swept into the stream of this modern thinking that is ruining our homes. A fine group of Christian wives welcome the encouragement and fortification which they have obtained from this series.

Gifts for purchasing books and tapes for the school library also have come from the WMF. The WMF Board is thankful for the library committee, which selects and screens additions to the library.

The Seminettes are very appreciative for the spiritual enrichment opportunities which the WMF makes available to them and the WMF is happy to provide training and inspiration for future pastors' wives. It is a beautiful example of believers encouraging and aiding one another, all for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom.

Mrs. Richard Snipstead, Greenbush, Minn.—Treasurer

Mrs. Julius Hermunslie, Spicer, Minn.—Advisor

These officers agreed to meet once a month at the Powers Hotel, Fargo, N. Dak., at the same time as other elected boards of the "Lutheran Free Church-not Merged"* met to plan for a conference to be held the following June.

Our meetings were always opened with a Bible study and prayer. We really depended on God to lead and guide and open doors for us, and this He surely did! In spite of all of our weaknesses and mistakes, He blessed us. We wanted projects to support, Bible studies for the women, district meetings, etc. So plan we did for our first annual convention which was held in June at our first home mission church, in Fargo. Rev. John Abel came to us in April of that year and was called as Mission Director and pastor of the Fargo church. He also started the mission work in Brazil. By this time we had six projects and a budget of \$5,000.00. There were 40 congregations, 15 pastors and 160 lay people present. We were divided into eight districts, each one organizing its own WMF work.

*We were not known as the AFLC as yet

We have always had willing workers in the WMF and Mrs. J.C. Eletson of Duluth, Minn., was one of them. She did all of our printing and mailing gratis. God surely supplies our every need.

nary and young men who were willing to give themselves for full-time service for the Lord. None of this came about easily. We certainly had our struggles.

With very limited abilities and as unworthy as I felt, I was elected presi-

God Has Blessed Us

Our June, 1964, conference was held in Valley City, N. Dak., and by this time we had met the Lawrence Dynneson family from Nogales, Ariz. They had requested that our Association take over this mission work—another open door. Rev. Alvin Grothe had answered a call to go to Brazil. We now had two mission fields and seven projects, and our 1965-66 budget was \$12,000.00. There were open doors for Home Mission work right here in America and souls who needed to hear "salvation made plain." We believed in experienced salvation and the need for people to get into the Word of God in order to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Each year our women exceeded the suggested budget. In 1965 we were able to meet on our own grounds at Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minn. Those 21 acres of land had been prayed over much, and with the help of God and some wonderful people, we now had headquarters with teachers for a semi-

dent of the WMF in 1965. Without God's help and the very efficient co-workers on our boards each year the work would not have progressed as it did.

I enjoyed traveling to the different churches and sharing what Christ means to me while I presented the work of the WMF. The fellowship was great and still is! We were always blessed at our family Bible Camps at Alexandria, Minn., where we held our board meetings.

At the annual conference in 1966, at Thief River Falls, Minn., the question of a Bible School came up. We had teenagers who were ready for such a school and were disappointed when that subject was tabled for the day. I recall Gary Skramstad saying, "Let's go over to the church and have a prayer meeting." Approximately 15 people gathered and cried unto the Lord for help in this matter. Tears were not shed in vain for the next day we had our answer, the voting for a Bible School passed. We then prayed for 12 students and the Lord sent us 13 and enough teachers to start our school (our daughter Jean was in the first class).

There were growing pains, but as we look back now we can see how our faith was strengthened through it all. You only need to look at our \$44,000.00 budget now to see the increase in gifts and love shown to our WMF work by all our women.

God has been faithful in raising up efficient, dedicated ladies to serve on WMF Boards over the years. The present officers are:

President: Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, Thief River Falls, Minn.

First Vice-Pres.: Mrs. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.

Second Vice-Pres.: Mrs. Ronald Knutson, Drummond, Wis.

Secretary: Mrs. Reuben Wee, Granite Falls, Minn.

Treasurer: Mrs. Emil Hass, Jr., Valley City, N. Dak.

Executive Sec.: Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn.

The Lutheran Ambassador



The first permanent officers of the WMF. Shown left to right, they are, Mrs. O. K. Ose, Mrs. Herbert Presteng, Mrs. Julius Hermunslie, Mrs. Raymond Jacobson and Mrs. Albert Moen. They took office in 1963.

Later leaders in the WMF. Left to right, Mrs. Melvin Walla, Mrs. Harry Molstre, Mrs. Herbert Presteng, Mrs. J. C. Eletson, Mrs. Birdeen Holt and Mrs. R. M. Konsterlie.



editorials

ONE MORE EFFORT

The press of other material leaves little room for the editor to editorialize in this issue of the *Ambassador*. Nor were our opportunities any better last time. By our next issue we hope things will be back to normal.

But may we make one last appeal for the 1978-79 budget of the Association? Anyone who has seen the report of Budget Receipts for the end of November realizes that a great, united effort is needed if the budget is to be met this year.

The long and short of it is that \$183,859.70 would have to come in during December and January if the goal is to be met. That is a very large amount for a church fellowship of our size. Association people have surprised before and we hope that we have saved our biggest surprise of all for this year. It will be needed.

There is a great demand for the evangelical dollar, if we may put it that way. Perhaps we will write more of that later. But if you are a member of an Association congregation, remember the responsibility you have to take care of your own first of all. And we say a hearty thank you to all who, while not officially members of the AFLC, have its interests at heart and share of their means with this work for the Lord.

May He bless us all.

WMF FEATURE

When the Association began in 1962, the one area of the work most apt to succeed was the Women's Missionary Federation. No male chauvinism evident here, right?

The success story of the WMF is obvious to all during the past 16 years. Under a handful of presidents the work has done nothing but go forward. And fortunate that has been for the AFLC.

Today we feature that auxilliary in the church by devoting a number of pages to it. And we are glad to do so.

We are grateful to the executive committee and the executive secretary of the WMF for arranging for this special emphasis.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR HOUR

featuring Pastor Herbert Franz
can be heard on the following stations:

Station & City	Frequency	Sunday Time
WKLK, Cloquet, Minn.	1230 AM	12:30 p.m.
KKIN, Aitkin, Minn.	930 AM	10:07 a.m.
KQAQ, Austin, Minn.	970 AM	6:30 p.m.
KWLM, Willmar, Minn.	1340 AM	4:30 p.m.
KRWB, Roseau, Minn.	1410 AM	8:30 a.m.
KEYZ, Williston, N. Dak.	1390 AM	8:30 a.m.
KWAT, Watertown, S. Dak.	950 AM	1:00 p.m.
KTFC-FM, Sioux City, IA.	103.3 FM	(Sat) 6:30 p.m.
KVSR-FM, Rapid City, S. Dak.	97.9 FM	(Sat) 7:00 p.m.
WATW, Ashland, Wis.	1400 AM, 95.9 FM	12:30 p.m.
WHDF, Houghton, Mich.	1400 AM	12:30 p.m.
WJMS, Ironwood, Mich.	590 AM	7:30 a.m.
WHWL, Marquette, Mich.	95.7 FM	6:00 p.m.
KVOK, Kodiak, Alsaka	560 AM	5:30 p.m.
WRYZ, Jupiter, Fla.	10 AM, 97.6 FM	8:00 a.m.
KGEZ, Kalispell, Mont.	600 AM	8:30 p.m.
KXBBQ, Ontario, Oregon	96.1 FM	8:00 a.m.

—SPREAD
THE
WORD—

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

I MET THE LOVER OF SOULS

"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe" (1 Tim. 4:12).

The Amplified Version states: "Let no one think less of you because of your youth." The adolescent years are a time of learning. Our youthful years are usually made up of frequent errors in judgment, many foolish acts and often some flagrant sins of rebellion. Most parents of teens are well aware of this, but I'm sure that no one is more keenly aware of their failures, shortcomings, sins and helplessness to change than the teen himself.

That was how it was for me. If I were to use one word to describe my teen years it would be "insecure." Not because of my parents or family; not because of my friends, but because of my own failings, shortcomings and sins, I was insecure. Doubt, disappointment

Share what Jesus has done and is doing in your life!
How else will the world know that He is the only
Answer!

and hopelessness filled my life and the excitement of youthful and often worldly activities only drove these from my mind for a short time. When I was 22 years old, through the preaching of the Word, God brought me under deep conviction of sin. It was then that I saw the source of my disappointment and turmoil. God showed me my sinful heart, from which my troubles came. Then, as God continued to speak to me through His Word, I was brought to the great Lover of souls, Jesus. Though still disappointed and often discouraged because of my sins, I have someone to cling to now who never disappoints or fails me and never turns me away when I come to Him. "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast..." (Heb. 6:19).

You who doubt, and to yourself seem so hopeless, though you and your parents sometimes lose patience (and at times it is difficult to fault them for this, isn't it?), pour out your heart to Jesus, tell Him all in prayer and let Him speak to you through His Word. Then He will help you. He will make glorious changes in your inner and outer life. He will reveal to you how really precious you are in His sight.

Pastor Dale A. Mellgren
LLF President

THE LONGER I SERVE HIM

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity" (II Peter 3:18).

I thank my Lord for the chance He gives me to serve Him. It's such a blessing to walk with Him each day. It seems the longer I serve Him the more I realize my walk is just beginning. We are admonished by Peter to grow in the knowledge of Christ. This should pertain to each part of our lives. By the grace of God, and the knowledge we have of Him, we are motivated in our everyday situations to live for Him. I experience tremendous comfort as I commit each thing to God. It seems the older we become, the more responsibilities we acquire. I find it very reassuring to know that God knows my sinful nature and heart and is concerned with each area in my life. I praise Christ my Savior that He has patience with me, forgives my sinfulness and, besides all that, He still calls me His child. May we all seek to serve and glorify our Savior.

—Arne Berge
LLF Treasurer

(You are invited to share a testimony on this page. Write to Tad Spading, 10447 N.E. 110th, Kirkland, Wash. 98033.)

The Congregation and the Pastor—III

We all have personal needs. There are three that stand out in the life of the pastor. 1. personal support, 2. financial stability and 3. professional growth.

Personal Support: A pastor and his family have the same needs that you have. Your pastor needs to know that you appreciate his concern for the congregation, his love for people, his commitment to the Lord and his availability to you. There are several ways this can be done. The most effective and important way is for the Board to

be praying for him and to be sensitive to his needs as a person. I don't think I have met more than a handful of pastors who wouldn't work themselves to death if they could only feel the support of their Board. Will your board meet weekly to pray for your pastor? Will they ask what they can do to be of help to him? Many of the pastors I

Providing for your pastor's needs

have spoken to are among the loneliest men I have known. Your personal support for him will normally make the difference in whether your congregation goes forward.

(Continued on page 15)

"Paul drank deeply of the Master's cup. It seemed as if Jesus had trusted him with participation in the sorrows of Gethsemane and Calvary. And he was thus fitted for the stewardship of two great secrets, which was his joy to unfold. In Eph. 3 he says that he was commissioned to show the Gentiles that they might become fellow-heirs; but here, v. 27, that they might experience the indwelling of Christ. Those who are conscious of that indwelling know its riches of power and joy and victory. Their hope of glory is dimmed by no fear, because they have Christ in their hearts, and, therefore, heaven in their hearts, so it follows naturally that their hearts will one day be with Christ in heaven. Christ in us is the hope of glory. Note the individual interest which the true pastor takes in his flock, as shown in the repeated use of *every man*" (*Through the Bible Day By Day*, Rev. F. B. Meyer).

10. How can you share your new insights with others? _____

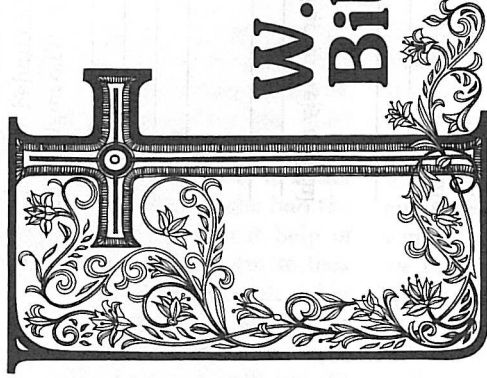
From the Project Calendar:

February — *Praise Program*

The ladies of the WMF are concerned with AFLC debt retirement.

Marcy — *My Missionary for a Day*

This is a call to pray for and to support our missionaries in a financial way. Pray for Mrs. Ruby Abel, Mrs. Carolyn Dyrud, Mrs. Helen Knapp, Mrs. Gola Dymeson, Mrs. Janet Abel and Mrs. Susan Kvanvig. Remember to write to all of them.



W.M.F. Bible Study

TWO YET ONE— CHRIST AND GOD

February, 1979

Study Assignment: Colossians 1:15-29.

So far we have studied about Paul's emphasis on Christ our Life and Redeemer. What Jesus has done for us should be the motivating factor in how we respond to Him. Because He is the source of life we should seek to be rooted and grounded in Him. Because He died for us, we should seek to grow in the knowledge of His will and live accordingly.

Re-read the Epistle to the Colossians. Observe what Paul says about Christ—His relationship to God, to the world, to the church and to you.

1. How does Paul describe Christ in 1:15? _____

What false theory might this counteract? _____

2. Note all the times Paul mentions "in Him" and "in Christ." Count the number of times these expressions appear in this letter. Underline them as you locate them.

3. There had been false "doorbell" ringers coming to the Colossian Christians. It was very important that they were grounded and knew the relationship of Christ to God, the world and themselves. Are we rooted and grounded in Christ and the Word when they come to us today? Who might some of these people be? _____

What are some of their claims? _____

4. What is Christ's relationship: _____

A. to God? 1:15a _____

The being and perfections of God are accurately and fully represented by Christ.

B. to creation? 15b-17 _____

He makes God known to us by His creative power, and by the same power in creation shows that He is exalted over all the things as the Son of God. Particularly the earth was made by the Son of God to be the place where He would become incarnate and exhibit the wonders of redeeming love. There could not be a more positive declaration than this, that the universe was created by Christ, and, if so, He is Divine. The work of creation is the exertion of the highest power of which we can form a conception and is often appealed to in the Scriptures by God to prove that He is Divine, in contradistinction from idols (*Barnes' Notes*).

C. to the church? 1:18 _____

The church, therefore, is safe. All the great powers of heaven, earth and hell, are made subject to its Head and King and no weapon that is formed against it shall prosper.

D. to reconciliation? 1:19-20 _____

What does reconciliation mean? _____

"How wonderful is God! His scheme of grace embraces the world of men, but He can concentrate on individual souls as unworthy as ours. And He will never abandon His work until we arrive in His presence-chamber without spot or blemish or any such thing. But, of course, the putting forth of His power on our behalf is conditioned on our steadfast faith" (*Through the Bible Day By Day* by Rev. F. B. Meyer).

5. As you read this and other Bible passages you frequently note the expressions: "in Him," "through Him" and "for Him." Why do these expressions appear? _____

"We have a Saviour who is in no respect deficient in wisdom, power and grace to redeem and save us. There is nothing necessary to be done in our salvation which He is not qualified to do; there is nothing which we need to enable us to perform our duties, to meet temptations, and to bear trial, which He is not able to impart. In no situation of trouble and danger will the church find that there is a deficiency in Him; in no enterprise to which she can put her hands will there be a lack of power in her great Head to enable her to accomplish what He tells her to" (*Barnes' Notes*).

6. What is Paul saying to you in vs. 21-23? Rewrite these verses using your own person or first person pronoun. Such as "I" who _____

7. Is Paul boasting of himself in vs. 24-29? _____

The object seems to be to show that he regarded it as the highest honor to be thus entrusted with the message of mercy to mankind and considered it as a privilege to suffer in that cause.

8. What does Paul have to say about:

A. His suffering? 1:24 _____

B. His office? 1:25a _____

C. About the purpose of his appointment? 1:25b _____

D. About the keynote of his message? 1:28 _____

E. About the purpose of ministry? 1:28 _____

F. About the source of his power? 1:29 _____

9. What new insights have you discovered as you have studied the first chapter of the Epistle to the Colossians? _____

Women For Christ

Union Lake Church hosted WMF rally

The North Central District fall Women's Missionary Federation rally was held on October 28 at Union Lake Church, Winger, Minnesota, Bruce Dalager, pastor.

Mrs. Marvel Thompson, district president, presided. The theme was "Jesus, The Bread of Life," based on John 6:35. The theme song was "Break Thou The Bread of Life."

Devotions were given by Mrs. Ester Ness, Trinity, Wilton, followed by a welcome by Mrs. Diane Albers. Music was shared by a group of ladies from Trinity, McIntosh, and Mrs. Stanley Brekke and Mrs. Melford Grundyson, Mt. Carmel, McIntosh. Bible study was led by Mrs. Karen Dalager and she compared bread to people. We may be fine on the outside, but hollow or spots of sin inside. We may be fancy, sticky, sweet, twisted, tied in knots, curling up and hiding, or the plain ordinary

person.

We need the right ingredients to make bread. If we don't leave any of these ingredients out, our life will be complete, and we need them all. If we allow God in our life, we will all be of the same basic thing.

The afternoon session began with a singspiration led by Mrs. Mauritz Lundeen of Bagley. Prayer time was led by Mrs. Maybelle Holt of Fosston. Music was given by Doreen and Karen Schroeder of Bemidji, and Judi Demaris, Marilyn Ness, and Karen Floan of Fertile.

Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, gave a slide presentation on the Holy Land.

The offering was given to the Praise Program and the Seminary.

Mrs. Thompson closed by reading I Cor. 1:9.

Mrs. M. Jerome Voxland
Secretary

McVille women promote missions

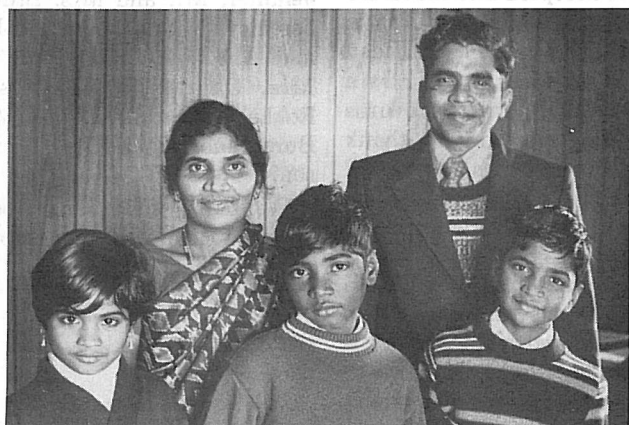
The Junior Mission Group of New Luther Valley Lutheran Church, McVille, N. Dak., gave their annual program on Oct. 29, 1978, at 3:30 p.m. This group of children from grades 1-7 has met regularly for the past ten years, being sponsored by the Ladies Aid.

Through the years many women of the church, often with teenage girls helping, have offered a varied program of mission emphasis, crafts, singing, service in the community, and the making of items to send to our mission field in Brazil for teaching purposes.

After a short program by the children centered on "Christ Our Light," Miss Judith Wold gave her slide presentation on the Holy Land. It is her commentary together with the excellent slides she has taken which makes this a valuable Bible history presentation.

A group of ladies served a delicious supper for those who came to the program. Co-leaders of the Junior Mission Group are Darlene Lofthus and Edna Quanbeck, with Elizabeth Knutson as helper. Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson is pastor of the church.

—Corr.



DASARI FAMILY ARRIVES

Pastor Rao Dasari returned on Nov. 12 from India with his wife Karuna and children, Esther, 7, David, 12, and Paul, 10. The AFLBS and AFLTS Old Testament instructor had gone to his homeland last May to bring his family to America. They are now residing in their home west of Medicine Lake, at 2760 Norwood Lane North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.



New members at Slim Buttes

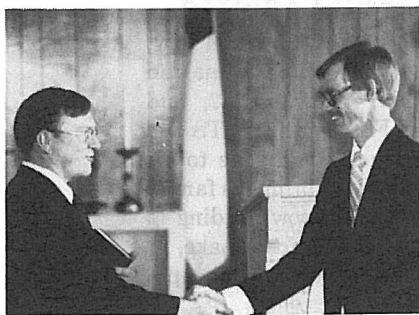
New AFLC church installs pastor

Sunday, September 17, was a joyous day for Slim Buttes Lutheran Church, Reva, S. Dak., when Philip Rokke was installed as pastor there.

The day began at noon with a pot-luck dinner. The afternoon installation sermon based on II Timothy 4:1-5 was preached by Pastor Elden Nelson, Dickinson, N. Dak. Pastor Nelson pointed out clearly the duties of a pastor as well as the responsibilities of the congregation to stand behind the pastor in prayer and to assist, encourage and work with him in every way possible to further the work in God's Kingdom.

Pastor Rokke, along with the church council, responded in answering questions asked by Pastor Nelson.

In response, Pastor Rokke asserted that we are all servants of Christ and that we are all inadequate by ourselves. Only through Christ are we able to forgive, love and uphold one another. He requested prayer from the people.



Pastor Nelson and Pastor Rokke

The choir sang "I Will Praise Him."

After services, everyone present was invited to stay for coffee and cake. The cake, which was in the shape of the Bible, was baked and beautifully decorated by Vi Week and Alice Wilkinson. Bouquets of fall flowers decorated the tables. Pastor and Mrs. Rokke were presented with an arrangement of yellow and turquoise carnations.

Slim Buttes is really an old church in terms of years, but new in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. We were accepted into the AFLC in the spring of '78. Before Pastor Rokke accepted our call, Pastor Elden Nelson of Dickinson and Pastor Edwin Kjos, then of Faith, S. Dak., took turns serving our congregation. We thank God for the many blessings we received through them.

Pastor Rokke is a 1978 graduate of the Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minnesota. In July, he and his wife Marlene, along with their two children, Joshua, two years, and Jessica, then only a few weeks old, came to serve Slim Buttes Church. We praise and thank God for them.

Rejoice with us and pray for us, too!

NEWS of the Churches

Eight families join Slim Buttes

The following named families were received into membership in the Slim Buttes Lutheran Church on October 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Solvie, Lisa, Olaf and Andy; Mr. and Mrs. Gary La-Due, Danny, Darcey and Delta; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wilkinson, Bobby and Jennifer; Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Week, Jeremy, Jason, Joshua and John; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Dutton; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Week; Mrs. Philip Rokke, Joshua and Jessica; Mrs. Anna Burer; and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Wilkinson.

We praise and thank God for the strength He has given us through these new members.

AFLC to send eight men to conclave

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will send eight men to the Colloquium on the Church in Future Society to be held in Houston, Texas, Jan. 29-Feb. 2. It is sponsored by Lutheran Brotherhood, a fraternal insurance company with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn.

Attending from the AFLC will be Mr. Robert Knutson and Pastors Richard Snipstead, John Strand, Elden Nelson, Raynard Huglen, Francis Monseth, Wendell Johnson and Robert L. Lee.

Members from the following churches will participate: American Lutheran Church, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, Church of the Lutheran Brethren, Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and the AFLC.

Ortley church has a new pastor

William Moberg was installed as the new pastor at Ortley Lutheran Church, Ortley, South Dakota, by President Richard Snipstead at an installation service held here on October 22. After completing graduation and internship requirements last summer in the Newfolden parish, Pastor Moberg was ordained in his home church at Astoria, Oregon. Special music was provided by the church choir and Mr. Arlo Kneeland. A dinner was held afterwards in honor of the new pastor and the president of the AFLC.

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Ronald Knutson, pastor of the Drummond-Mason, Wis., parish since his ordination in 1973, has resigned that call to accept one to Triumph Lutheran Church, Ferndale, Wash. He and his family will not move to Ferndale until next spring. In the meantime the work at Ferndale is being carried on by **Lay Pastor Verle Dean**.

Providing for your pastor

(Continued from page 10)

Financial Stability: Your pastor has the same financial needs that you have and often, because of his work, even greater needs. Most congregations say, "We wish we could afford to do more for our pastor." The next question is, can you afford not to do more for Him? Look around your community, the congregation which loves and supports its pastor generously is the one which grows. Their love and support for him becomes a part of their unspoken testimony to the community. Is your pastor

able to work effectively in your community? Can he meet his family's needs for good meals, comfortable housing, good medical and dental care, and reasonable clothing? What about his children's education or reasonable vacation and recreation for his family. He is available to you 24 hours a day; he needs time away regularly. Can he do it? Does he live in a parsonage? If so, housing costs have doubled in the last 10 years. Will your pastor ever be able to purchase a home? Are you making an adequate allowance for him to meet his needs? I do not know of one sincere evangelical pastor who is in the ministry for the money—if he were, with his training he would go into another line of work. But, I know of many who are having serious problems because of lack of financial support.

Professional Growth: In order for a pastor to serve his congregation well, he must continue to grow spiritually and in the practical areas of his work. He needs time for studying the Scriptures. This can be done by encouraging him to take time for study in his parish and by sending him at least once a year to a seminar or short course which would challenge him and give him broader and deeper knowledge of the Scriptures. He also needs to attend at least one seminar or short course which helps him in the practical areas of his ministry. He needs to be associating with and learning from others through whom the Lord is working. As he becomes more familiar with witnessing, home Bible study and discipleship programs, he will in turn be able to use these concepts and principles in his own congregation. Each time you encourage and send him to opportunities of personal and professional growth, you are demonstrating your concern for him, your support for his ministry and you are investing in the future growth of your congregation to bring the believers to maturity and to reach the unsaved for Christ.

You want your congregation to grow and to have your pastor successful in his ministry of serving the Lord Jesus Christ. You can bring both about by giving prayerful, honest, loving support to your pastor in his personal life, his financial stability and his professional growth.

—Pastor Robert Rieth

Midwinter Conference Announced

The 43rd annual Midwinter Conference, sponsored by the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, will be held January 21-25, at Augustana Lutheran Church, 7th Street and 11th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. The theme will be "Knowing the Time," based on Romans 13:11.

Nels Pedersen, evangelist for the LEM will be the evening speaker, beginning Sunday evening at 7:45 and continuing through Thursday evening.

Day sessions, beginning on Monday, will feature Bible studies in John 13-17 by Dr. Eugene V. Stime, former president of Lutheran Bible Institute, Seattle, Wash., at 10 o'clock, and "The New Testament and the News" by the Rev. David L. Larsen, pastor of First Covenant Church, Minneapolis, at 11 o'clock.

The 1:30 afternoon hour will have as its theme "Sharing Christ Today," with testimonies by lay Christians in today's world.

Youth Days will follow the conference and will be held at Northrop Auditorium on the U. of M. campus, Friday evening, January 26, and all day Saturday, January 27. Evening rally speaker will be Jack Aamot, pastor of Trinity Lutheran of Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis. Day sessions will feature Bible studies, music and messages.

The conference and Youth Days are open to the public.



Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

Boscobel

Lewis King, 70, Nov. 30, 1978, Trinity

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